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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, our refuge and our defense, show Yourself, our Deliverer. In the time of Moses, in response to the murmuring of Your people, You fed them in the desert. Amidst their struggles, Your servant Paul exhorted the early Christian community at Corinth not to grumble, but deepen their understanding. Yet in this Nation truly blessed and free, rich with options and opportunity, people find reasons to complain. Among the mournful crisis of this world, hear us and be patient with us, Lord.

Guide Your people, by Your spirit, that they may refine their perceptions and expand their vision so to distinguish mere inconvenience and frustration from true suffering and the pain of loss. The times and the issues which face this Congress and this Nation are so significant, Lord, You must silence the trivial in us.

You have called us to be Your moral witness and reform our lives. Free us from complaining so to learn determination, commitment, and perseverance; and prove ourselves faithful in living and unafraid to die for everlasting values now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TERRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOB CORPS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Job Corps, a national program which serves more than 70,000 students each year, and especially I would like to congratulate Job Corps director Roy Larsen of Homestead and Luis Cerezo of Miami.

The Job Corps program teaches the job training skills necessary for young people to thrive in the workforce. Through cooperative work-based learning, students are able to gain hands-on experience which is vital to long-term career success.

Job Corps graduates enjoy a 91 percent placement rate through national partnerships with employers such as HCR, Manor Care, the U.S. Army, and Walgreens. These partners invest in Job Corps students and are rewarded with well-trained individuals to fill their employment needs.

Please join me in congratulating and recognizing the wonderful work that Job Corps provides and, most especially, Job Corps directors Roy Larsen of Homestead and Luis Cerezo of Miami for their dedication and hard work in the south Florida community and for our young people.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS AN IRREFUTABLE OBLIGATION OF U.S.

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has a new plan. Instead of taking on the extension of

the \$5.95 trillion debt ceiling, they are a little embarrassed to be increasing the debt of the United States when last year they predicted surpluses as far as the eye could see and paying the debt off within a few years. They are especially embarrassed that they are going to break open the Social Security lockbox, something they had us vote on seven times. They do not talk much about the lockbox anymore.

But now the most disturbing proposal. They are not going to raise the debt ceiling; they are going to disappear the Social Security trust fund. Yes, that is right. They decided yesterday that they are going to say that these special depository instruments, the debt of the Federal Government of the United States, which is held by the Social Security trust fund, over \$1 trillion, does not exist. Suddenly, they are wiping a couple of trillion dollars off the books, all because they do not want to take an embarrassing vote, or all because they do not want to roll back their obscene tax cuts or rein in their massive increases in military spending.

They cannot do this to the Social Security trust fund. It is an irrefutable obligation of the Government of the United States of America. They cannot disappear it.

NORTH KOREA AND THE AXIS OF EVIL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Bush said that there is an axis of evil governments at work in the world today, three countries ruled by evil governments that sponsor terrorism, practice genocide, and seek weapons of mass destruction. It should be pointed out that it is the governments, the rulers of these three countries the President has talked about, not the people who live there.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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